Use of staple pins in packaging of edible items

†*251. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of staple pins in packaging of edible items is appropriate;

(b) if not, whether Government are giving it a serious thought; and

(c) whether Government would bring an amendment in the law to ban this?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The matter relating to ban on the use of staple pins in packaging of edible items was examined by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on the request of Department of Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The ICMR opined that use of staple pins in packaging of food products is a common practice and the sick of swallowing the pin along with the food is very minimal.

The Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), a statutory committee under the PFA Act, 1954, in its meeting held in June, 1990, considered the opinion of ICMR and recommended that the State Governments may educate the traders to discourage such practices. Accordingly, the State Governments were requested to create awareness in this regard and discourage the use of staple pins for packing edible items.

NAFED loans

*252. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NAFED has disbursed loan of several crores of rupees to a few firms and if so, the details thereof including the amount of loans given to each firms and its grounds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NAFED had given bank guarantee or extended loans to these firms without any collateral, moveable or immoveable sureties; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):

New medicine for malaria

*253. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invented a new medicine based on plants to prevent malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have completed the trial process of the said medicine and by when this medicine would be available to the common man?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The new medicine derived from traditional Chinese herbal preparation-Quinghaosu (Artemisinin, from the herb Artemisia annua and its derivatives-Artemther, Arteether and Artesunate) has been approved for use under the National Malaria Drug Policy of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

Artemisinin derivatives are to be used to P.falciparum severe and complicated malaria cases and for Pf malaria cases not responding to conventional anti-malaria drugs i.e. chloroquine. The drug is available under the programme for treatment of P.falciparum malaria resistant to anti-malaria drug chloroquine.

Before introducing the drug in the programme, it has undergone clinical trials and has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for use.

Disease Surveillance Labs

*254. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centres for Disease Control, United States, will help India in setting up disease surveillance labs to track disease out-breaks in the country;